

Jury in Bomber Smuggling Trial Is Told of Uses for Bombsight

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SUFFALO, Sept. 23—What can you do with a Norden bombsight?

The question was raised in Federal District Court today on the third day of the trial of three men on charges of conspiring to smuggle World War II attack bombers to Portugal.

It came as defense lawyer Edwin Marger, who claims the scheme was secretly supported by the Central Intelligence Agency, subjected a Rochester man to a lengthy quiz.

"Would you use a Norden

bombsight in a private air plane?" Marger asked Jerome Bachman, warehouse manager for the Rochester firm of Morris Diamond Associates.

"No," said Bachman. "People buy them for the parts. They strip them down and take the parts out." The Norden sight, one of the best-kept secrets of World War II, is full of all sorts of little gears and gyroscopes.

"Can anyone walk in and buy bombsights and machine guns?" Marger, a pilot himself, asked. "Bombsights, yes; machine guns, no," Bachman responded.

Previous testimony indicated that Keat E. Griggers, 42, Jamestown, Calif., a mechanic who was indicted in the B-26 scheme but later let off, stopped at the Diamond company to buy gunsights, gun mounts and ammunition boxes for B-26s. Bombsights weren't mentioned although they are cited in the indictment.

The Government contends the three defendants conspired to fly 20 of the twin-engine bombers to Portugal and actually sent seven.

Another witness was Raymond J. Miller, an employee of Page Airways, Inc., Rochester, the firm that installed a long-range fuel tank in a B-26 that passed through here en route to Canada and eventually Portugal. Miller relayed a casual conversation he held in May, 1965, with John R. Hawke, 28, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., a

former RAF pilot accused of flying the B-26s.

"I asked what they were doing with the B-26," Miller testified. "He said they were taking it to Montreal to have it converted into an executive aircraft."

Hawke, Marger's client, contends the scheme was secretly backed by the CIA, which was meddling in a rebellion in the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique.